

Assignments

Week 1, beginning 8/20/2007:

Tuesday:

- We'll discuss the syllabus and the structure and goals of the course.
- You'll do a calculation at the end of the syllabus to determine if you're giving yourself enough time to succeed or if you're setting yourself up to be so pressured by work, family and SCC commitments that at some point in the semester you, the beautiful butterfly ready to fly about the garden of education - - if you're uncomfortable with this metaphor, replace it with powerful cat ready to explore educational savannahs -- will be squished like a bug under the heavy boot of too-many-responsibilities.
- I'll hand out Neil Postman's "Parable of Ring Around the Collar," which we'll begin discussing.

Homework due Thursday:

1. If you're not yet registered for the class, make sure you do that either online or in person.
2. Purchase required texts and a composition book for your journal.
3. Complete your first quiz by going to the site listed above, Qcounty.com, and by following the link in the upper right-hand corner to [Solano College classes](#) and the link to [Fall 2007](#). Select your class and then follow the link to First Visit. Follow the directions you'll find there to send me an email. Don't forget to include your name!
4. Read Postman's essay "Ring Around the Collar."
5. Bring an advertisement from a newspaper, magazine or the Internet to class that you'd like to analyze.

Thursday:

- Bring all required texts and your journal to class.
- Bring your advertisement.
- You'll take a quick, open-notes quiz on Postman's article. If you've read the article, you'll do well.
- We'll critically discuss Postman's article and discuss how it relates to the advertisements you brought.
- You'll take some time in class to write in your journal about your advertisement, using Postman's ideas to help you analyze why the ad engages you.

Homework due Next Tuesday:

1. Now that you understand Postman better, pick an advertisement about which you'd like to write a double-spaced, one-page (~250 words) essay. Indeed this may be the same one you've already picked.
2. In your journal, brainstorm the major points you want to make in your essay about your advertisement.
3. In *50 Essays*, read Joan Didion's "On Keeping a Journal," pages 131-138.
4. Be prepared for an open-note quiz on Didion's article on either Tuesday or Thursday.



"Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson.